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EXAMINER

CHEN, TE Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2171

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/820,388

Applicant(s)
Paul Bennett

Examiner
T. Chen

Art Unit
2171



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 28, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 - 21 are presented for examination.

Specification

2. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicants' cooperation are requested in correcting any errors of which applicants may become aware in the specification. Also, It is noted that the present specification does not contain line numbers. For ease of reference by both Examiner and Applicant all future correspondence should include the recommended line numbering.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-21, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faustini (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,870) in view of Comer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,584).

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5. As to claims 1, 8 and 15, Faustini et al. (hereinafter referred as Faustini) discloses a visual Java (VJ) tool building system [Fig. 1] having a primitive calculator object [e.g., 570, Fig. 5] which can collaborate with a primitive spreadsheet [524, Fig. 5] via a plurality of Java application or applets [e.g., see col. 97, lines 1-22, Fig(s) 15-19, 23]. The system comprises apparatus, methods and computer program products as claimed by applicant to perform the following steps, including:

- a) a CPU [e.g. the CPU (102), Fig.1];
- b) a display screen coupled to the CPU [e.g., the display (122), Fig. 1];
- c) a memory coupled to the CPU [e.g., the ROM (104), RAM(106), etc, Fig. 1], wherein, the memory stores program instructions which are executable by the CPU to receive input expression [e.g. see 1504, Fig. 15], evaluate (or collaborate) the expression [e.g. Fig. 16 - 16A, 19] and display the calculated result [e.g. see Fig. 18].

6. Faustini did not specifically disclose the customization details as claimed by applicant.

7. However, Comer et al. (hereinafter referred as Comer) discloses a programmable computing system with a spreadsheet having auto-calculator capability which can be configure to perform a user-defined function (UDF). Wherein, the UDF can be a formula that the author writes, a program written in a built-in macro language, or through a separate program that

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interfaces with the spreadsheet. Such that, a user of a programmable computation device, to customize the current selected cells of a spreadsheet to perform any user desired functions in the calculation device [Abstract; Fig(s) 1-5; col. 2, lines 15-22; col. 7, lines 31-38]. Thus, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, with the teachings of Faustini and Comer in front of him, being motivated to apply a separate auto-calculator module, having user defined functions (UDF) to combine the features of spreadsheet into a programmable vertical calculation device, such as a programmable calculator. Since by doing so, it would make the combined spreadsheet and calculation capabilities portable as well as easy to use.

8. As to claims 2, 9 and 16, Faustini and Comer further disclosed the combined system is able to insert the second field comprises an intersection of the first column and a second row below the first field [e.g., see the insert option of Fig. 3 in Comer].

9. As to claims 3, 10 and 17, Faustini and Comer further disclosed the combined system is able to:

a) modify one or more of the input numeric values in its location on the display [e.g., see the edit option of Fig. 3 in Comer];

b) recalculate and redisplay the result of the input numeric values and mathematical operators as modified [e.g., see Abstract lines 13-15; Fig. 5 in Comer].

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10. As to claims 4, 11 and 18, the claimed limitation -- at least one of the output number values is identical in form to the corresponding input numeric value -- is read on by the calculator input.

11. As to claims 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20, the claimed simultaneous operation is read on by the spreadsheet insert mode.

12. As to claims 7, 14 and 21, the claimed feature -- the second column comprises a plurality of number fields displayed vertically and a plurality of operation fields displayed vertically is read on by those calculators performing vertical calculations.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Mattox (U.S. Patent No. 5,404,321) which disclosed a palmtop computer system with apparatus and methods for modifying and enhancing the built-in programs of a computer.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Chen, whose telephone number is (703) 308-1155. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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15. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached at (703) 308-1436. The fax phone numbers for this group are:

(703) 746-7238 (After Final Communication);


(703) 746-7239 (Official Communications); and

(703) 746-7240 (For Status Inquiries, Draft Communication).

16. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Susan Chen

Jun. 3, 2003


SAFET METJAHIC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100